

**REMARKS**

Entry of the foregoing, reexamination and reconsideration of the subject matter identified in caption, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.112, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11, 18-22 and 24-29 are pending in the application, claims 24-29 having been newly presented above.

By the foregoing amendments, claim 7 has been revised to point out that the at least one micro-component is disposed directly on the front surface of the first substrate. Support can be found at least in Figure 5 of the application. Newly presented claims 24-29 point out further aspects of the invention.

Turning now to the Official Action, claims 7, 8, 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Witherspoon (U.S. Patent No. 6,477,303). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

The present invention relates to micro-chip assemblies. The assemblies are useful in alignment of a first substrate having at least one micro-component disposed thereon relative to a second substrate having at least one micro-component disposed thereon.

Based on a complete understanding of the present invention, it is respectfully submitted that the present claims cannot properly be rejected based on the teachings of Witherspoon.

Witherspoon discloses an optical interface between a circuit card and a main board on which the circuit card is mounted. The structure includes a daughter board 12 that includes an optical fiber (or waveguide) 16 mounted thereto, and a motherboard 14 that includes an optical fiber 18. The light generated or processed on the circuit card is communicated via fiber 16 to the circuit card 14 interfacing with card 12. An interface 20 includes a first portion 22 affixed to the first circuit card 12 and a second portion 24. Alignment pivots 26 maintain pockets 23 and grooves 25 of first and second portions 22 and 24 in alignment. Spherical lenses 28 are provided at the output end of fiber 18 and the input end of optical fiber 16. Mirror 34 turns light at a right angle from the motherboard to the daughter boards or vice versa.

Witherspoon does not disclose or suggest each feature of the present invention. For example, Witherspoon does not disclose or fairly suggest a first substrate having a front surface which comprises at least one micro-component disposed directly thereon, as recited in

independent claim 7 of the present invention. In this regard, the Examiner relies on optical fiber 26 as the presently claimed micro-component of the first substrate. Witherspoon's optical fiber 16, however, is not attached directly to interface 20. Rather, optical fiber 16 is attached directly to daughter board 12 while lenses 28 is mounted to interface 20 along the optical axis. There is, accordingly, no disclosure or suggestion in Witherspoon of the present invention as set forth in claim 7.

Nor does Witherspoon disclose or suggest each feature of newly presented independent claim 25. For example, Witherspoon does not disclose or fairly suggest a second substrate having a periphery, wherein the entire periphery extends beyond a first substrate, as recited in newly presented independent claim 25.

Accordingly, this rejection cannot properly be applied to the claims as currently presented. Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

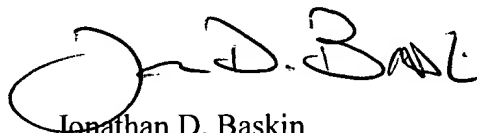
Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Witherspoon in view of Tayebati (U.S. Patent No. 6,041,071). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

The Office relies on Tayebati for that document's alleged disclosure of an alignment element in the form of a horizontally-disposed cylinder. However, Tayebati fails to cure the above-described deficiencies in Witherspoon. Thus, even if combined in the manner suggested in the Official Action, the combination of Witherspoon and Tayebati would not result in applicants' invention. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §103(a) based on Witherspoon and Tayebati is respectfully requested.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at his earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan D. Baskin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a stylized "B".

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